

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for analyzing the performance of a plurality of investments requiring use of a computer coupled to a database of investment data, wherein the computer is programmed to perform the method, the method comprising:

~~using a data source from which can be derived~~ determining, by referring to the database, a percentage change in value of each investment during each of a plurality of consecutive reporting periods within a given time frame;

for each investment, calculating values with the computer of an investment performance measurement for a plurality of overlapping holding periods within the time frame, respectively, wherein

each holding period is a period of time spanned by consecutive, contiguous reporting periods, each of a standard length of time, such that the length of each holding period is a multiple of the standard length of time, and

the investment performance measurement is a quantitative measurement of investment performance;

ranking the investments based on the values of the investment performance measurement.

2-5 (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method includes, for each investment, calculating a weighted average of the values of the investment performance

measurement for the plurality of holding periods and comparing the respective weighted averages of the investments.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the weighting factor to be applied to the value in respect of each holding period is based on the length of the holding period associated with each performance measurement value.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the method includes:
calculating a measurement of similarity between each pair of investments for a plurality of holding periods;

performing a mathematical conversion on the measurement of similarity such that these values are mapped into a range of positive values in which a lower positive value reflects a greater degree of similarity between the investments; and

using such converted or mapped values to partition the investments into groups such that the similarity among the investments within each group is as high as possible and the similarity between the investments in a given one of the groups and the investments of every other group is as low as possible.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the method includes:

calculating values of a plurality of performance measurements for the plurality of holding periods for each investment;

~~calculating a weighted average of the values of each performance measurement for the plurality of holding periods;~~

~~with each performance measurement, calculating a standardized value for each of the weighted averages~~investments, wherein each standardized value is a number of standard deviations ~~that the corresponding weighted average~~by which the value of the corresponding performance measurement of the corresponding investment deviates from the mean of all weighted averages~~the values of the corresponding performance measurement for all of the plurality of investments, for each of the performance measurements; and~~

for each investment, calculating a weighted average of the standardized values for each of the performance measurements; and

~~performing a mathematical conversion on the resulting weighted averages such that the highest resulting weighted average is mapped to one hundred percent, the lowest is mapped to zero percent and all other values are mapped within a range from zero percent to one hundred percent accordingly.~~

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the weighting factor to be applied to each standardized value is a fraction, the numerator of which equals one and the denominator equals the number of standardized values being averaged.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the method includes, in respect of any performance measurement value for which a lower value reflects a better performance, multiplying the corresponding stored standardized value by a factor of negative one prior to calculating a weighted average of the standardized values.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the method includes storing the values of the performance measurement for each of the investments in a database prior to using the values to rank each investment.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the method includes storing the weighted averages for each of the investments in a database prior to using the values to rank each investment.

15-17 (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes making an investment decision based on the results of the analysis.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes calculating a probability of loss value by counting the number of the holding periods for which the return was negative and dividing the total by the number of the holding periods.

20. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes calculating the percentage of a designated set of holding periods in which the value of a designated performance measurement for one investment ~~is represents~~ represents a better performance than a designated fixed value.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein one hundred percent weighting is applied to a single holding period and zero percent weighting is applied to all other holding periods.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein one hundred percent weighting is applied to a single standardized value and zero percent weighting is applied to all other standardized values.

23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method includes calculating the percentage of a designated set of holding periods in which the value of a designated performance measurement for one investment reflects better performance than the value of the same performance measurement for another investment.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the measurement of similarity between the performance measurements of each pair of investments is a correlation of returns between each pair of investments.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the weighting factor to be applied to the value in respect of each holding period is a percentage selected by the user such that the total of all weighting factors equals 100%.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the weighting factor to be applied to each standardized value is a percentage selected by the user such that the total of all weighting factors equals 100%

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the investment performance measurement is one of the following:

- a) any quantitative measurement of the absolute performance of the investments;
- b) any quantitative measurement of the performance of a single investment relative to that of another investment; and
- c) any quantitative measurement of the performance of a single investment relative to a fixed reference value.

28. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the method includes, for each investment, calculating a weighted average of the values of any investment performance measurement for the plurality of holding periods and including the weighted average among the performance measurements for which a standardized value is calculated.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein a 100 percent weighting is applied to a single holding period and zero percent weighting is applied to all other holding periods when calculating a weighted average of the values of each performance measurement for the plurality of holding periods.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein a weighting factor to be applied to each holding period when calculating the weighted average of the values of each performance measurement for the plurality of holding periods is a percentage selected by the user such that the total of all weighting factors equals 100%.

31 (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the method includes performing a mathematical conversion on the resulting weighted average standardized values such that a highest resulting weighted average is mapped to one-hundred percent, a lowest is mapped to zero percent, and all other values are mapped within a range from zero percent to one-hundred percent accordingly.